

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Society for the Diffusion
of Christian & General Knowledge
among the Chinese.

For Year Ending October 31st, 1896.



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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIAN AND GENERAL
KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CHINESE.

[In 1877 the China Missionary Conference established the School and Text Book Committee. Its Secretary, Rev. Dr. A. Williamson, organized in 1884 at home the Chinese Book and Tract Society of Glasgow and founded in connection with that Society in 1887 in China the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese. In 1892 the Chinese Book and Tract Society of Glasgow was succeeded at home by the Christian Literature Society, which is now among the main supporters of the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese.]

ARTICLE I.—The Society shall be named in English the “SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIAN AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AMONG THE CHINESE;” and in the Chinese language 廣學會.

ARTICLE II.—*Object.*—The object of the Society shall be,—the publication and circulation of literature based on Christian principles throughout China, her Colonies, Dependencies, and wherever Chinese are found,—especially Periodical literature adapted for all classes, as the resources of the Society may permit.

ARTICLE III.—*Membership.*—Any person may become a member on being proposed, seconded and elected by a majority at any of the meetings of the Society or of the Directors, and it is hoped all members will assist by subscriptions and otherwise.

ARTICLE IV.—*Board of Directors.*—The Society shall be managed by a Board, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and of not less than six ordinary Directors resident in China, who shall be elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting

with power to fill up vacancies, which may occur during the year.

ARTICLE V.—*Powers of the Board.*—The Board shall have power to determine its own Meetings, appoint Trustees (who may or may not be members of the Society) in whom any property of the Society may be vested; also to devolve upon Sub-Committees, Local Associations, or individuals, whether members or not, such charge of specific portions of the Society's operations as may seem expedient or necessary.

The Board also shall have power to call special Meetings of the Society, take such steps as may appear best to diffuse information regarding the proceedings of the Society, secure pecuniary contributions, defray out of the funds of the Society all expenses connected with the work, and in general take whatever measures, consistent with the Constitution, as shall seem likely to promote the objects for which the Society is organized.

ARTICLE VI.—*Quorum.*—One-third of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum; and the Chairman shall have a deliberative as well as casting vote.

ARTICLE VII.—*Annual General Meeting.*—A General Meeting of the members of the Society shall be held during the second week of December, every year, at such place as the Directors may appoint, when a statement of the income and expenditure shall be submitted, together with a report of the Society's operations during the preceding year.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Alteration of Constitution.*—The preceding articles of Constitution can be altered only by a vote of two-thirds of the members present or duly represented at the Annual General Meetings, and that only in the event of three months' previous notice having been duly circulated among the members of the Society,

(LIST OF MEMBERS December, 1896).

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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
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Knowledge among the Chinese,

For the Year Ending October 31st, 1896.

THE PROGRESS OF REFORM.

IN our last annual report mention was made of the efforts of prominent officials and others in Peking to inaugurate some much needed reforms in the Government. A few weeks later these commendable aspirations were considerably discouraged by the imperial edict which closed the doors of the Reform Club and brought that institution to an untimely end.

It was hardly to be expected, however, that such a conservative court as that of Peking would view a movement, that aimed at political changes, with any other feeling than that of suspicion, and the permission subsequently given to open a Book Room for the distribution of literature bearing on political progress, subject to the inspection and approval of the Tsungli Yamén, was from such a source quite a concession. However small it may be, it proves that the Government is not altogether opposed to progress, if only it can be introduced by the properly constituted authorities after due deliberation and made to strengthen the powers that be rather than over-turn them.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

It is encouraging, too, to know that through this Book Room there has come quite a demand for our own publications. Besides the *Review of the Times*, the "History of the War with Japan" by Dr. Allen has found numerous purchasers. The supplement to this work, consisting

of two volumes on "Educational Reform," met with some disapproval among the Ministers on its appearance at Peking and was refused a place among the books to be circulated by the Government, because of its distinct recommendation of Christianity. The discussion between Sun Chianai, the Director of the Book Room and his relative Dr. Kung of Shanghai on the merits of the work was published in the *Messenger* for July and August and is very interesting. Among other things the Director said the following in praise of the author:—"The writer is well acquainted with China's deficiencies. Chinese scholars either do not see them or dare not say what they think. Dr. Allen has described them fully, and has spoken as if he were a faithful subject of China and a true friend of the dynasty. For this he is to be respected, honoured, loved and revered."

Of the method proposed, however, he wrote:—"The method for the improvement of education in China is based on the adoption of Christianity, and cannot be made one of the books circulated by the government depôt. It can only be printed and sold by the missionary (Dr. Allen) himself. The Chinese reader can select its good portions and derive from it great advantage. For myself I wish to purchase several copies of the history of the war to circulate among my friends. What is the price? Kindly tell me that I may be able to send the money and buy what I require."

The writer evidently misunderstood the work and got the impression that it urged the Government to establish Christianity by law as the religion of the state. This Dr. Kung showed to be altogether incorrect and in his reply he further explains the origin of the book as follows:—

"Twenty or more years ago the Japanese minister accredited to Washington was directed to make special inquiry into education as a source of national renovation. On receiving answers from presidents of universities and colleges, he collected them into a volume and communicated them to his government. Japan sent men, who inquired, adopted the method of national education thus recommended, established the system in detail, and rose in consequence to her present flourishing condition. If China is truly willing to obtain a good method of acquiring national prosperity from the United States, she

must ask her men of knowledge and penetration. Who could advise her so well? How is China to recover her prosperity without such aid? Japan has followed this plan, and the result was excellent."

The important thing for us is, that the subject should have discussion at all among Chinese officials, especially those of the highest rank, and more important still is it, that the work should find a defender in an avowed Confucianist.

The fact is there is a steadily growing recognition among thoughtful Chinese of China's backwardness in all that pertains to intellectual development and material welfare, and a growing demand for instruction in Western learning and the introduction of Western improvements in education, in agriculture and the mechanic arts and in all departments of state administration. This demand, it is true, is largely confined to the Chinese living in the open ports, but the same feeling is spreading to other quarters, even to those strongholds of conservatism where we would least expect to find it.

HUNAN AWAKING.

There is perhaps no one locality where there has been a larger demand for our publications, particularly the *Review of the Times* and the "History of the War" than the capital of Hunan, the very headquarters of the anti-foreign propaganda. Much of this demand is due to the wise management of the Provincial Examiner who has introduced such subjects to the students as will require them to study works on western politics and history and the applied sciences. In a letter written by him to a friend in Shanghai he says he has for two years past read the publications of the Diffusion Society and among them those coming from the pen of Mr. Tsai. He notices the aim to raise the falling and save the desponding. It is a genuine sympathy that he shows with China in her sorrow. Those who know these books, however, are few. This sort of learning is despised. He is aware, he says, of the dislike felt to Western knowledge by the Hunan people, and of the virulence with which they attack it. Yet the world changes fast, and old prejudices must be disregarded. A new departure is imperatively required as the only way to save the country.

He states what he himself is doing. He divides the subjects of essays into six classes, and leaves the choice of them to the candidates. Any essay which shows ability, although the writer has not reached the height of excellence in the fashionable style, has good marks from the examiner, who gives him a high position regardless of style. Readers of the Western learning rapidly multiply. The books published at the Scientific Book Shop in Shanghai and by the Diffusion Society are being read in very many homes. The youthful readers in Hunan are studying International Law and the physical sciences; such students, the writer says, he has invited to occupy the vacant rooms in the college of Classical Research in Changsha. Some additions are made to their incomes so that they may not leave through poverty. At certain times they are examined to test their progress. The consequence is that for these two years past Hunan students have become even better instructed than those of Chêkiang and Kiangsu, indeed it could not have been expected that the habit of study in the province should show such a quick change for the better. More than this, when they read the *Wan-kuo-kung-pao*, they agree with the reasoning. They come to ask questions about matters of which they read. They long to meet the editor personally. They meet with expressions they do not thoroughly understand and they wish more information. The writer feels that a guide is needed in this College. As to the two subjects of study during the last season—ancient quotations and geography—the examiner has himself undertaken them, but regrets he knows so little. He ventures to beg Mr. Tsai to go himself to Hunan to criticise and correct the essays of these students. Should he consent he will do what he can to provide the College with funds. The salaries of the officials in Hunan are too limited, but he will do what it is in his power to do. He feels the need of the best possible teacher. The mind of Hunan is opening to imbibe the new knowledge. Learners need a safe guide to secure them from wandering into mistaken paths. He adds that in February his year's work will be finished. He will then remain half-a-year in the city of Changsha and will give his whole mind to the advancement of Western learning. He hopes to arrange college matters on a satisfactory basis. A building for a library has been erected. In the hall below there is to be apparatus to teach physics, chemistry, electricity, and mining. Next year he hopes to open a newspaper printing office especially for the

benefit of Hunan. The salary will be forty-eight taels. The respect and admiration with which he will be treated and the utility and importance of the duties Mr. Tsai is invited to undertake, are held out as inducements to the early acceptance of the post.

INTEREST IN OTHER QUARTERS.

Another incident of note of somewhat similar character was the urgent request sent to Dr. Allen by an official in Kwantung, that he would pay him a visit and give him the benefit of his advice. H. E. Chang Chih-tung, too, still retains his interest in our work and has offered to pay for the publication of such treatises, as may meet his approval. The Provincial Examiner of Kiangsu has also been putting questions to the students which require a knowledge of Western science, but both here and in Hunan and elsewhere, too, no doubt, the examiners themselves have been handicapped by their own ignorance. They have confessed that they do not know what questions should be asked nor are they competent to judge the answers. Both students and examiners therefore naturally turn to our Society for help.

NEW WORK PROPOSED.

To meet the need just mentioned the Society has determined to prepare a course of reading fitted for officials and students who are not in a position to attend school, something on the order of the university extension courses used in the West, which if faithfully followed up will furnish these influential classes with a general knowledge of the subjects required. This will necessitate the preparation and publication perhaps of some books not now at hand, but so far as possible we shall utilize what has already been prepared. This we believe to be a very practicable undertaking and one that will afford help where most needed.

NEED OF RELIGIOUS TEACHING.

It is of the utmost importance both to China and the West, that Western learning and Western civilization be introduced as what indeed and truth they are, the fruit of Christianity, and as having a distinctively Christian character. The Chinese recognize morality as

the foundation of all lasting national prosperity, but they do not all see that where religious faith is lacking, one of the most powerful motives to moral living is taken away. To give any people the material benefits of civilization without that religious training, which will ensure the consecration of such material advantages to the highest ends, is but to make that people a menace to the peace of the world, because failing to supply that sense of responsibility which will prevent the use of their knowledge and skill for purposes wholly selfish or evil. It must therefore be regarded as of great importance that the Chinese, as they receive instruction in the physical sciences, shall at the same time not want for ethical and religious teaching.

A CRITICAL TIME.

There is a feeling even among the Chinese themselves which has lately found expression in many contributions by them to the native press, that this is a critical hour in Chinese history, that great changes are imminent and that the wisest management is necessary to avoid national shipwreck. Among the younger men there is a great deal of unrest and not a little secret disloyalty. This is greatly to be deplored. All needed reforms may be introduced and ought to be introduced by peaceful and legal methods, and it is our hope that as a society we may be able to turn this misdirected energy into lawful channels and that, by reaching the minds of those who are in authority, we may help the Government by timely advice to recognize the dangers ahead and to avoid them by introducing such reforms as will take away the just reasons for dissatisfaction. We cannot but believe therefore, that the work of our society merits the heartiest support of all those who have any interest in the well-being of China.

Our means are limited and our operations therefore are necessarily confined, but the results achieved in spite of these draw-backs become all the more emphatic in their testimony to the value of the work.

OUR LITERATURE.

The character of the literature we circulate may be known at once from a glance at the catalogue. It will be seen there, that we keep this twofold aim of the material and spiritual welfare of China steadily in view. We have a Review devoted particularly to the

discussion of political and industrial questions, the *Wan Kwoh Kung Pao*, but we have also another, the *Chung Si Kiao Hwui Pao*, given more especially to the treatment of religious questions. What fare they supply to the native mind, may be judged from the Tables of Contents of two numbers of each Review herewith presented.

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Of 85 other publications of the Society 43 are distinctively and wholly of a religious and Christian character while of the remainder, Dr. Faber's "Civilization a Fruit of Christianity," Dr. Williamson's "Natural Theology," Mr. Richard's "Benefits of Christianity," and "Four Great Questions," are of the nature of evidences of Christianity and are largely used as such by the missionaries. All our literature indeed is permeated with Christian sentiment and recognizes that in our religion lies the real source of all material well-being.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The last annual meeting was held in the Municipal Council Board Room, Shanghai, on Thursday afternoon Dec. 19th 1895.

Shortly afterwards we began publishing the series of Reform Papers, nine in number, by Drs. Allen, Sheffield and Ross and Revds. Richard, Hill, Reid, Candlin, Ferguson and Williams. These papers have been widely distributed and read and some have met with words of decided appreciation from Chinese officials in the highest posts of authority. In addition to these papers the following tracts, also in the interest of reform, have been published by Dr. Allen.

1. "The Unity of the Truth."
2. "Truth as Related to the National Character."
3. "Truth as Related to the Individual Character" (in press.)
4. "What the British Government has done for "India," or "India as a Mirror to the Chinese." Other new publications of the year have been :

Dr. Allen's History of the War with Japan and the Supplements on Education, A Life of Christ by Rev. H. D. Porter, M.D., D.D.,

"Aids to understanding the Bible" by A. Williamson D.D. (a republication), "On the Education of Mankind" by Rev. J. L. Rees.

Four more numbers of Dr. Allen's Witness Series; being No. 8, "How the People of Ancient Europe became Christian," No. 9, "The Christian Experiences and Labours of Three Hindu Women, No. 10, "The Testimony of the First Converts among the Karens, the Parsis, and Afghans," No. 11 (in Press), "How the English became Christian," Sermons of Rev. D. L. Moody by Dr. Allen, and the two Reviews.

Dr. Allen's articles, now appearing in the *Review of the Times* on "The Journey of Li Hung-chang" have excited considerable interest among the Chinese and will also shortly appear in a small volume. The growing influence of the society may be measured by the demand for these publications.

During the year the *Review of the Times* has again doubled its circulation, *i.e.*, it is now four times what it was two years ago. *The Missionary Review* is also steadily increasing its subscription list and finds readers in all parts of the empire as well as among the Chinese of America, Australia, the Straits and elsewhere, but as it is intended particularly for circulation among the Christian Chinese and as these are limited in numbers and poor in purse, it can hardly be hoped, that the magazine will soon become self-supporting. Rev. Timothy Richard's translation of Mackenzie's Nineteenth Century has been very nearly sold out and a new edition has been ordered.

"The History of the War with Japan" by Dr. Allen is the most important work issued during the year and has had a phenomenal sale, enabling the Society to recover the cost of its publication in less than six months after its issue. The first edition of 3,000 copies is entirely exhausted and the demand still continues, so that it has been decided necessary to order other and larger editions at once. The

work consists of 8 volumes or, including the supplement on Educational Reform, of ten volumes. It opens with a discussion of the advantages of peace and gives a history of the organization and operations of the Peace Society. As necessary to a proper understanding of the causes of the war a brief sketch is given of China's relations with Japan for the past three hundred years. Especially striking is the disclosure of the plans, formed by Li Hung-chang and approved by the Peking Government as early as 1882, to attack the Japanese and recover the Liu K'iu Islands, a fact which shows that responsibility for the war does not rest wholly with Japan.

The troubles in Korea are related at some length and the official despatches which passed between the three Powers are given wherever possible.

One volume is devoted to the engagements of the war. The reasons for China's defeat are enlarged upon and the urgent need of reform is pointed out.

The opinions of the Western Press on the war are given and some noteworthy articles on the subject by distinguished men, such as Admiral Lang, Sir Thomas Wade, Admiral Fremantle and others, are translated. The real nature of a true civilization is shown to grow out of man's three-fold relation, to God, to nature and to his fellows, and the shortcomings of Chinese civilization in these relations are set forth without any glossing. The book is much more indeed than a narrative of military engagements.

It has been called by one reviewer "an invaluable survey of the progress of events in the Far East for the past fifteen years." The *Recorder* for August said:—"It is one of the most important books ever issued by a foreigner in the Chinese tongue. It is a plain unvarnished tale by a candid friend of China, telling the Chinese just what they ought to be told" * * * * "There is not much better missionary work that one can do at this time than to aid in its circulation." The *Daily News* of May 15th has this to say:—

"In closing we cannot but express our high appreciation and commendation of the work before us. It is a worthy culmination of Dr. Allen's labours in a literary point of view. It is receiving a cordial and wide-spread welcome at the hands of Chinese scholars and others. The style in which it is written meets their approval, while the

sentiments it contains are revolutionary in the best and noblest sense. Only let the principles and inculcations of these volumes obtain the needful currency—and they are certain to do so—they will yield an abundant harvest in the whole rôle of China's administration."

CHANGES.

We have very much missed during the year our enthusiastic Secretary, Rev. Timothy Richard, who left Shanghai on March 28th, by the same steamer as H. E. Li Hung-chang, for a well-earned furlough. There have been some other changes during the year in the Constitution of our Committee and our Chairman also intends soon to sail for home.

The absence of these ardent and efficient office bearers will make it all the more necessary for the rest of us to exert ourselves to advance the interests of the Society. The receipts of the year will be learned from the Hon. Treasurer's Report which is appended.

Subscriptions, 1896.

NAMES.	TAELS.	DOLLARS.
C. S. Addis, Esq.	25.00	...
J. L. Scott, Esq.	10.00	...
Union Church.....	35.94	...
G. Jamieson, Esq.	10.00	...
W. V. Drummond, Esq.	10.00	...
C. Thorne, Esq.	25.00	...
Wade Gard'ner, Esq.....	10.00	...
W. H. Poate, Esq.....	10.00	...
J. C. Bois, Esq.	20.00	...
A. Wright, Esq.	5.00	...
Rev. P. Kranz	20.00	...
J. F. Seaman, Esq.	5.00	...
Dr. Henderson.	10.00	...
F. C. Bishop, Esq.....	10.00	...
F. A. Morgan, Esq.	10.00	...
Rev. Stanley P. Smith.....	20.00	...
James Buchanan, Esq.....	10.00	...
Tls.....	245.94=	332.84
Rev. Dr. Edkins.....	...	10.00
Jas. Scott, Esq. ....	...	5.00
P. Von Möllendorff, Esq.....	...	5.00
Dr. Stuebel .....	...	10.00
H. R. Hearn, Esq.....	...	5.00
F. Walther, Esq.....	...	5.00
Rev. H. C. Hodges. ....	...	10.00
A. Wasserfall, Esq. ....	...	5.00
Chun Faiting, Esq. ....	...	5.00
Fung Yu, Esq.....	...	5.00
Rev. T. Douglas.....	...	7.50
Rev. F. P. Joseland.....	...	20.00
N. A. Siebes, Esq.....	...	20.00
Chang Chih San, Esq.....	...	10.00
Mr. A. Wylie's Book.....	...	24.03
H.E. J. H. Ferguson.....	...	10.00
Tls.....	245.94	\$156.53

Subscriptions 1888

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THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BY

1776	DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
1787	ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION
1791	ADOPTION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS
1800	TRANSFER OF THE CAPITAL TO WASHINGTON
1803	ACQUISITION OF LOUISIANA
1812	WAR OF 1812
1820	MISSOURI COMPROMISE
1850	CALIFORNIA COMPROMISE
1861	SECESSION OF THE SOUTHERN STATES
1863	EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION
1865	END OF THE CIVIL WAR
1877	END OF RECONSTRUCTION
1898	SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR
1901	ANTITRUST LEGISLATION
1913	16th AMENDMENT (INCOME TAX)
1917	18th AMENDMENT (PROHIBITION)
1919	19th AMENDMENT (SUFFRAGE)
1920	20th AMENDMENT (GOVERNMENT TERMS)
1921	21st AMENDMENT (REPEAL OF PROHIBITION)
1927	SCOTCHMAN'S CREEK
1928	ROCKWELL
1929	CRASH OF 1929
1933	21st AMENDMENT (REPEAL OF PROHIBITION)
1937	25th AMENDMENT (SUCCESSION)
1941	PEARL HARBOR
1945	END OF WORLD WAR II
1947	TRUMAN DOCTRINE
1950	MACARTHUR
1954	BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION
1957	ROOSEVELT
1960	ELECTORAL COLLEGE
1963	CIVIL RIGHTS ACT
1964	GREAT SOCIETY
1968	WATERGATE
1973	ABORTION
1974	IMPEACHMENT
1975	AFGHANISTAN
1979	IRAN
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THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. II.

By SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D. &c.
Author of the "Dictionary of the English Language," &c.
Printed by S. KNEELAND, at the "Globe," No. 24 NASSAU ST. N.Y.
1805.

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME. BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D. &c. VOL. II.

IN TWO VOLUMES. VOL. II.

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Printed by S. KNEELAND, at the "Globe," No. 24 NASSAU ST. N.Y.

The Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese.

Dr.

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

Cr.

To Editors and Chinese Writers Expense	\$ 202.34	By Balance from 1895 Current account	\$2,293.83	
„ Printing and Publishing “Review of the Times”...	\$2,034.24	On Deposit Tls. 1,601.32	\$2,186.95	
„ „ „ „ Books, Illustrations, Circulars, &c.	\$3,437.63			\$4,480.78
„ „ „ „ Ladies Branch Publications	\$ 665.15	„ Subscriptions and Donations, as per list Tls. 245.94	\$ 332.84	
„ „ „ „ “Missionary Review”	\$ 665.60	„ „ „ „ from Ch. Lit Soc. Glasgow... £125.0.0	\$ 156.53	
„ Chinese Writer for the Work	\$ 192.00	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ £ 75.0.0	\$1,113.90	
	\$1,522.75	„ „ „ „ Ladies Branch £100.0.0	\$ 648.65	
„ Printing Report	\$ 62.00	„ „ „ „ Am. Tract Society ... £ 20.9.0	\$ 912.58	
„ Freight, Boxes, Postages, Advertising, Fire Insurance, &c.	\$ 363.26		\$ 183.07	\$3,347.57
	\$7,622.22	„ Sale of “Review of the Times”	\$1,260.43	
„ Paid for Mr. Richard’s passage home	\$ 299.39	„ „ „ “Missionary Review”	\$ 253.35	
„ American Presbyterian Mission Press, Balance of 1895 Account... ..	\$ 429.87	„ „ „ Books, &c., &c.	\$4,386.14	\$5,899.92
	\$8,351.48	„ Interest on current account in Bank	\$ 53.09	
„ Balance due by A. P. M. Press on 30th June, 1896	\$ 418.89*	„ „ „ Deposit... .. Tls. 80.06	\$ 109.68	\$ 162.77
	\$8,770.37			
„ Balance of Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in current account... ..	\$2,824.04*			
On Deposit Tls. 1,601.32				
Interest „ 80.06 Tls. 1,681.38	\$2,296.63†			
	\$5,120.67			
	\$13,891.04			\$13,891.04

* These sums are needful to meet accounts for printing to this date.

† Held to meet claim of Dr. Williamson’s Executors.

Audited and found correct,

W. H. POATE.

E. & O. E.

Shanghai, 26th November, 1896.

JAMES BUCHANAN,

Treasurer.

The Report for the year 1900 of the Board of Directors of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company

Income Statement		Balance Sheet	
1900	1899	1900	1899
Operating income	\$1,200,000	Assets	\$1,200,000
Interest income	100,000	Liabilities	1,200,000
Dividend income	50,000	Capital	1,200,000
Other income	20,000	Reserves	1,200,000
Total income	\$1,370,000	Total	\$1,370,000
Operating expenses	\$1,100,000		
Interest expense	100,000		
Dividend expense	50,000		
Other expense	20,000		
Total expense	\$1,270,000		
Net income	\$100,000		

The Board of Directors of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the Board of Directors of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for the year 1900. The report shows that the company has made a successful year, with a net income of \$100,000. The Board of Directors is pleased to report that the company has made a successful year, with a net income of \$100,000. The Board of Directors is pleased to report that the company has made a successful year, with a net income of \$100,000.

THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese was held in the Municipal Council Board Room, Shanghai, 23 Kiangse Road, on THURSDAY, the 10th December, at 5 p.m. Consul G. Jamieson being absent from Shanghai, C. Thorue, Esq., was asked to take the chair. There were present: Rev. and Mrs. Elwin, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Muirhead, Rev. and Mrs. Rees, Rev. Dr. Y. J. Allen, Rev. G. H. Bondfield, Rev. E. Box, Rev. Dr. Edkins, James Buchanan Esq., J. P. Donovan, Esq., A. H. Harris, Esq., Rev. H. C. Hodges, Rev. P. Kranz, Mrs. C. Kranz, Dr. S. M. Kung, Rev. G. Loehr, Rev. Yen, Rev. F. L. H. Pott, Rev. J. Ware, Rev. E. T. Williams, and several others.

The Rev. Dr. Edkins having opened the meeting with prayer, the minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and approved.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the members would observe from the former that very great progress had been made in sending the books of the Society to all parts of the country. Two books specially claimed attention, one by Dr. Allen, the *History of the War between China and Japan*, and the other Rev. T. Richard's translation of Mackenzie's *History of the Nineteenth Century*. The former book gave a very correct account of the various movements which took place during the war, and had so attracted the attention of the Chinese that, although a first edition of something like 3,000 copies had been exhausted, they were asking for more. The Society's books had attracted great interest in all quarters, not only amongst the ordinary classes but amongst the *literati*, whom, hitherto, it had been very difficult to reach. Under the able guidance of Rev. T. Richard, Dr. Allen, Dr. Muirhead, Rev. E. T. Williams, and Pastor Kranz, they had issued such works as they thought would be best suited to the requirements of the Chinese people in Western knowledge, mixed with Christian knowledge. He begged to propose:

That the Report and Accounts for the past year be accepted.

The Rev. Dr. Muirhead seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman said that some three months ago a revised form of the Constitution, proposed by the Executive Committee, had been circulated among the members of the Society. A good deal in the old form of the Constitution was found to be really unnecessary, and therefore the Executive Committee proposed that the revised form should be adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Y. J. Allen, in seconding the resolution, availed himself of the opportunity to say something upon the general work of the Society. This year, as the Report showed, they had had unusual success in the publication and distribution of their literature. Geographically they had followed up the Chinese in all their migrations to America, Australia, and the South, and in return had received most encouraging letters indicating the great interest aroused by the Society's works. In the next place he called attention to the large and remunerative sales which had occurred. Their books had been so popular, and the sales so remunerative that there had been attempts on the part of local publishers to take them from the Society. In Hongkong one man took from the *Kungpao* the *History of the War* and published it before they did. That was a very significant thing and he heard that outside publishers were eager to take charge of the *History* and republish it in cheaper form. During the last two years the *Kungpao* had quadrupled in circulation. The *History of the War* and Mackenzie's *Nineteenth Century* were being reprinted, as there was a large

demand for them, particularly in Hunan, which was now said to be better posted on foreign subjects than Kiangnan. The third point he wished to call attention to, was the complimentary correspondence which the circulation of the Society's literature had elicited. He had received letters from all parts of China, indicating a very general interest in the Society and the books being circulated. It was also important to notice the apparent confidence which the people placed in their publications. They were beginning to rely upon them as trustworthy and valuable. He held in his hand two MS. volumes which he had just received from headquarters. These were the telegraphic history of the war with Japan, from the first despatch received from the Resident Yuan at Seoul down to the retrocession of the Liaotung Peninsula. These books contained some, 70,000 characters and had been sent to him for publication in the *Kungpao* as a vindication of the truth of history and also as a vindication, in some sense, of Li Hung-chang and to show that that statesman did not sell his country in making the treaty with Japan. Such a thing as that was a testimonial to the Society's work and showed the confidence which the highest men in the country put in the Society's integrity and principles.* The correspondence with the Society also revealed the growth of a public opinion in the country, and indicated to him that there were now in formation three different sets of opinion. He could not say that they had crystallised into parties, but there were sets of opinion which would ultimately have much to do with the progress of events in China. *First* there was the *party of despair*—the Radical, Revolutionary, or absolutely pessimistic party. The war with Japan had developed such a state of feeling that these people wanted the whole system swept away, and this accounted for an amount of unrest which manifested itself especially in the southern provinces. Of course our Society had no sympathy with such views. The *second* party was *ultra-conservatism*. Its adherents were beginning to perceive that Confucianism had been wanting in its influence, as compared with Western nations, in developing China, and, they said that for 2,000 years Confucianism had not been interpreted, understood, and practised properly, and hence the collapse of the country. They said: "Let us revert to pure Confucianism; let us go back to original principle, and re-construct Confucianism." That was one proposed remedy, and it was demonstrated by the revival of schools and colleges based upon Confucianism. This was neo-Confucianism, and had historical parallels in the neo-Buddhism of India and the neo-Paganism of ancient Rome. The *third* party might be called the *Liberal party*, that was to say, the one which, recognising the shortcomings of China on the one hand, did not despair, and, on the other hand, it did not try to assert that Confucianism was sufficient, but admitted that it was wanting and that unless they reached out their hands and obtained from Western countries civilisation and help, that they could never rise to the position which it was desired to take. With that party this Society of course sympathised deeply, but it was a discouraging feature that whatever he (Dr. Allen) and

* After the meeting the following paragraph (quoted from the *North-China Daily News*) was given to the Secretary as a further indication of the growing influence of our work:—"Under date of July 29th, the manager of the *Tsung Li Yamen* has returned thanks for a present of some copies of Dr. Young J. Allen's history in Chinese of the late war with Japan. He says that he has presented them to the Princes and other State ministers. He is ordered by them to say in reply that the book is very full and faithful; that its tone is generously kind and its feeling is honest and sincere, and as to the narrative of what happened from beginning to end, the effect is to lead the reader to much close inquiry and reflection. The book shows insight, thorough and far-reaching, and close attention to the politics of the time. The ministers add that they will not fail carefully to read the book and they wish the manager to return special thanks for the copies sent."

other foreigners might do, the Chinese gave them no credit. The officials would write to Mr. Tsai, who had been associated with him and Mr. Richard, and give him (Mr. Tsai) credit for everything that was done. They had been trying to get Mr. Tsai to go to Hunan, but Mr. Tsai recognised the fact that the ideas were not his, and that away from them he would be like a dove with one wing broken. In conclusion, Dr. Allen said it was especially gratifying to note the sympathy the Society enjoyed not only among the missionaries, to whom they were especially indebted for their help and co-operation in circulating the books, but also among the general foreign community in China. In our Society the lawyers, bankers, and commercial men had found a platform upon which they could co-operate with the missionaries, and he hoped that by their financial support they would enable the Society to still further extend its work.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried.

The Rev. F. L. Hawks-Pott proposed:—

That the Directors for the ensuing year be Mr. G. Jamieson, President; Mr. C. Thorne, Vice-President; Mr. James Buchanan, Treasurer; the Rev. T. Richard, Secretary; the Rev. P. Kranz, Acting Secretary, during Mr. Richard's absence; and the following gentlemen, Mr. C. S. Addis, the Rev. Dr. Y. J. Allen, the Rev. Dr. J. Edkins, Mr. A. H. Harris, the Rev. Dr. Muirhead, and the Rev. E. T. Williams.

In so doing the speaker pointed out the representative character of the committee and considered that it was due to the aims and methods of the Society being so comprehensive and having nothing narrow or sectarian about them. The Society did not overlook the fact that man was a human being and they had got something to do with his material welfare; that they wanted him to live in comfort, and that they wanted to stimulate the production of wealth. When they took an intellectual inventory of the Chinaman they generally found him as one living in the Dark Ages. Recently he (the speaker) had occasion to attend as interpreter upon a gentleman who had had a stroke of paralysis. When he came into the room with the doctor who was to treat the patient by foreign methods, he found a Chinese physician present explaining very learnedly the cause of the disease. The cause he gave was this: During the winter the earth was very cold. There had been a sudden change in the weather and so the male principle of the man had been irresistibly attracted down to the female principle of the ground and so, all the warmth having left his body, he had been smitten that way. Not only was the Society striving for the intellectual enlightenment of China, but it was striving for its moral enlightenment. The *History of the War*—this plain unvarnished tale—was showing how the country really stood and that, unless there was moral reformation the days of China were numbered.

Mr. J. P. Donovan seconded, drawing attention to the recent appointments of Ministers abroad as indicating a recognition of Western education and civilisation.

The resolution was carried.

The Rev. Dr. Edkins proposed:—

That the following gentlemen be added to the members of the Society: the Rev. E. Box, the Rev. G. R. Loehr, Dr. S. M. Kung, and Mr. Tsai Erh-Kang.

He said that when he first came to China and used to go about from city to city in the neighbourhood of Shanghai, they gave their books away, and it did not seem possible that they would have a sale for them. Now what a change had come about. Influences had been at work to bring

about a change in the state of the country, and especially the last war, and he could not but think there was something providential in that war. Now they saw the people in various parts of the country anxious for knowledge, and reconstituting their mode of instruction in their old colleges and schools.

Mr. G. McIntosh seconded, and the resolution was carried.

The Rev. E. T. Williams proposed:—

"That we tender our best thanks to all the supporters of the Society, but at the same time urge them and all other friends of China to *incedse* their efforts to enlighten and to help this, one of the greatest of all nations, in this most momentous crisis of her history."

Among other things, Mr. Williams said:—"We sometimes affect to despise money. We call it "filthy lucre" and other hard names, and, doubtless, a man's wealth is of small worth compared with his intellectual and moral equipment. But, for all that, money is not to be despised. No good work can be carried on without it. Certainly, to such a work as that of our Society, it is absolutely indispensable. We are therefore under weighty obligations to those who by their contributions have enabled the Society to carry on its work during the past year. On looking over the list we shall see that they are gentlemen whose names are usually seen on every subscription list to every worthy and needy enterprise. We may be sure therefore that, however much they may appreciate our gratitude, they are men who will not seek their reward in the applause of their fellows so much as in the success of the work to which they have contributed and more especially in the appreciation of those for whom the work is done. That they have that appreciation a glance at the report will show. The rapid sales of many of the productions of the Society and the testimonials of men in the highest posts of authority, as well as the constant calls from all sides for advice and assistance, are proof of this. Surely it is a grand work to aid in the uplifting of such an Empire as this, rightly called in the resolution one of the greatest in the world, whether viewed historically or in relation to its vast territory, dense population and marvellous resources, or in its intellectual development, it must be called a great nation. It is, of course, no easy task to move such a vast Empire and it is important that we approach the problem in the right way. With our Western notions, we are apt to think that the proper way to reform a nation is to begin with the common people. There is certainly much truth in this view, but we have to consider that oriental people, particularly the Chinese, have been trained for ages to follow and look up with the deepest respect to the official and literary classes, and it is the aim of this Society to prepare literature which addresses itself particularly to these influential classes.

There is especial reason, too, for increasing our efforts at this time, which marks a peculiar crisis in Chinese history. There is a tide setting in towards the adoption of Western methods. There is a great deal of unrest. Many younger men are inclined to the adoption of revolutionary methods. This is a serious mistake. It should be the aim of this Society to strengthen the hands of those in authority and help them to remove any just causes for complaint. There is great need therefore of the assistance of our friends at this particular time. What is done now can perhaps accomplish a thousand-fold more than if done twenty years hence. Therefore Mr. Chairman, I have great pleasure in proposing this resolution.

In seconding the resolution the Rev. J. L. Rees made the following remarks: "As we thank the supporters and the officers of the Society, we cannot but think of the amount of influence that is being exercised by

them on this vast empire; for undoubtedly *one of the most potent factors* in the enlightenment and reformation of China is *the literature* that is being published under the auspices of this Society. From all parts of China news reaches us of the demand there is for the Society's publications. *Hunan*, which used to be the centre of conservatism and the source from which so much of the anti-foreign publications were issued, has, we are told, become one of the best patrons of the Society's books. "The last shall be the first," who knows but that the Hunanese may yet lead the van of civilization and progress in this country! The distribution of about 4,000 numbers of the *Wan Kwoh Kung Pao* every month throughout the length and breadth of the land *must* have a powerful effect. We can venture to say, that it is being read by about three or four times that number, and the men who read it are *the ablest and most intelligent* China possesses. We have thus about 12 000 *scholars*, many of them in high official positions, perusing, not once in a lifetime but month by month, articles which bear on the progress of this country. There is thus presented before the readers of these articles, not only the advantage of constructing railways and opening mines, but they are taught that *no reformation can be sound and lasting, unless it has a moral foundation*. To introduce *Christian civilization* is the great aim of everyone who is in connection with this Society. Similarly the *Missionary Review* supplies the evergrowing Christian community of China with news and articles bearing on Christian work, and thus the double aim of the Society, *general enlightenment and Christian progress* is ever prominent in its operations. The success of such publications as the *History of the Nineteenth Century* and the *History of the War between China and Japan*, show clearly the lines on which the supporters of the Society should aim to carry on its work in the future. There is a genuine *desire* for such books as will supply the best information on the *progress of nations*. Scientific truth for its own sake is scarcely yet sought in China, but books that will throw light upon the dark problems, which those who are at the helm of the State have been unwillingly brought to face, are *welcomed* by the official and literary classes. To procure and publish such books a great deal of expense must be entailed; we therefore hope that the generous supporters of the Society will not only continue their liberality, but will even *increase their help*, so that the Society thereby may increase its efficiency. But the books have not only to be printed, they have also to be distributed, and there is in this direction a vast room for improvement in the Society's equipment. For a long time we have heard of the desirability of having a *Central Depot* in Shanghai, wherein the publications of the Society could be placed on sale. On account of the lack of funds, however, the Society has not yet been able to do this. Again, it is quite obvious what an advantage it would be to have a similar Depot in all the provincial capitals throughout the Empire. There is thus a large scope for efficient work opening out before the Society; therefore, whilst we sincerely thank the supporters for their help in the past, we no less sincerely hope that they will extend their generous support for the future. I have therefore great pleasure in seconding the motion that has been made."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Dr. Muirhead proposed a vote of thanks to the main workers of the Society, the Rev. Dr. Allen, the Rev. T. Richard, and Rev. E. T. Williams, which was unanimously agreed to.

Proposed by Mr. A. M. Harris, and seconded by Mr. J. Buchanan, a cordial vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, and this being acknowledged, the Rev. H. C. Hodges closed the proceedings with the Benediction.

